

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /070 W

-----095779 271022Z /10

O R 270935Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4754

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5324

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY WINDS UP FOUR DAYS OF INTERPELLATIONS

REF: SEOUL 5285 (240943Z JUN)

SUMMARY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S FOUR DAYS OF INTERPELLATION WERE CHARACTERIZED BY FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF RULING PARTIES TO DIVERT POTENTIAL MAJOR CRITICISM OVER "KOREGATE" FROM GOVERNMENT AND TO FOCUS CRITICISM ON U.S. BUGGING, "UNFAIR" CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, AND TROOP WITHDRAWAL DECISION. NDP MANAGED TO GET IN A FEW BARBS AGAINST GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, CHIEFLY IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. AS SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION OPENED, ROKG STOOD VULNERABLE TO ATTACK FOR ITS HANDLING OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND TO CHARGES THAT THIS BUNGLING POLICY MIGHT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO U.S. WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS, A DECISION WHICH IS MOST UNPOPULAR WITH KOREAN PUBLIC. DURING INTERPELLATIONS NDP MADE EFFORT TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS  
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VULNERABILITY, BUT DRP AND YUCHONGHOE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN DEFLECTING MAJOR CRITICISM AWAY FROM GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY FROM PRESIDENT PAK, TOWARD U.S. RULING PARTIES DID THIS BY EXPLOITING SUCH ISSUES AS BLUE HOUSE BUGGING, KIM HYONG-UK'S TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS AND TROOP WITHDRAWAL RELATED ISSUES.

2. ON BUGGING, RULING PARTIES' QUESTIONS MADE SO MUCH OF ISSUE THAT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT DESPITE DENIALS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE GREAT MANY DRP AND YUCHONGHOE ASSEMBLYMEN REALLY BELIEVE THAT USG DID, IN FACT, "BUG" BLUE HOUSE. KIM HYONG-UK WAS ROUNDLY DENOUNCED AS A TRAITOR WITH IMPLICATION BY RULING PARTIES THAT ANTI-ROKG CHARGES IN US STEM FROM TESTIMONY OF SCOUNDRELS LIKE KIM. ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUES, RULING PARTY ASSEMBLYMEN QUESTIONED U.S. MOTIVATION AND VALUE OF ITS COMMITMENTS.

3. ONE HIGH POINT OF NDP ATTACK ON ROKG OCCURRED WHEN KIM SU-HAN ASKED FOR APOLOGY TO KOREAN PUBLIC BY A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD APPOINTED KIM HYONG-UK AND KEPT HIM IN POSITION OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SIX YEARS. NDP ALSO MADE EFFORT TO ASSIGN ROKG ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL BY LINKING DECISION WITH INTERNAL POLITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS MYONGDONG CASE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, AT CLOSE OF INTERPELLATIONS, INITIATIVE WAS STILL UNQUESTIONABLY IN GOVERNMENT'S HANDS AND ITS STRATEGY OF "DEFLECTION" APPEARED TO BE WORKING.

4. PRESS COVERAGE NAUTRALLY GAVE GREATER PLAY TO RULING PARTIES' CONTENTIONS, ALTHOUGH MEDIA DID NOT IGNORE NDP EITHER. OVERALL IMPRESSION GIVEN BY MEDIA TO PUBLIC, WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN SOME PRIVATE COMMENTS MADE TO US, IS THAT U.S. MORE THAN ROKG IS TO BLAME FOR CURRENT STATE  
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OF US/ROK RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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